

Shift Colors

The Newsletter for Navy Retirees

Volume 46 Issue # 4

Navy Personnel Command

October - December 2001

RAO volunteers provide invaluable support to retired military community

The Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Admiral Norb Ryan Jr., showed his appreciation to volunteers from the retired community during a July visit to the Retired Activities Office (RAO) at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in July.

While RAOs are staffed entirely by volunteers, they receive computer support, training, information and other assistance from the Retired Operations Section (PERS-62) at Navy Personnel Command.

Here, Vice Admiral Ryan discusses RAO functions with Commander E. Duane Kemp, USN(Ret), a volunteer at RAO Whidbey Island. RAOs offer a range of services to the retired military community, serving as a liaison for retirees and surviving spouses in such areas as pay issues, the Survivor Benefits Program and



the Department of Veterans Affairs.

While each branch of service operates RAOs, retirees from any branch are welcome at any RAO. One difficulty the offices face, however, is a lack of volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer, contact your nearest RAO. If there isn't one in your area, and you would like to establish one, contact PERS-62 at 1-800-255-8950 ext. 2490 for assistance.

Presidential Certificates of Appreciation available

After a temporary hiatus due to the change in administrations, President Bush announced the continuation of the "Presidential Certificate of Appreciation" for service members retiring from active duty with 20 or more years of active service.

Any service member with 20 or more years of active service, who has retired or transferred to the Fleet Reserve since January 21, 2001, is entitled to the certificate.

Those entitled to the certificate may write to:

Commander Navy Personnel Command (PERS-823) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-8230

Service members should include name, Social Security Number, retirement rank or rate, date of retirement or transfer to the Fleet Reserve, and a home or forwarding address.

Straight from the source

Dear Fellow Retirees,

During a recent realignment, Michael Wardlaw became Deputy Director, Casualty Assistance and Retired Activities Division, and I took the job of Head, Retired Operations Section. My name is Dennis Mills, and I have worked for the Retired Activities Branch for more than eight years (six as the Survivor Benefit Plan Program Manager). I too am a Navy retiree, so I share the same concerns that you and your families have regarding benefits and entitlements.

I want to bring your attention to the Navy Retiree Seal decal enclosed in this issue of Shift Colors. The Chief of Naval Personnel wanted to provide you with a visible symbol of the pride we all take in our Naval service, as well as a symbol recognizing your honorable service to your country. In a time when fewer people are joining the armed services, the decal will also serve to generate interest in your Naval service, and hopefully the possibility of pursuing a career in the Navy. Display it with pride!

That said, I want to inform you of what we've been doing in the Retired Operations Section. The 2001 Retired Activities Office (RAO) Directors Conference was held here in Millington, Tenn., June 26-28, and was attended by more than 50 RAOs from around the country and the world.

Thanks to PNC Injee Yoon, NCCM Todd Pike, ITCM Del Turner, BM1 David Lomax and PN1 Joakim Jnystrom, the conference was a tremendous success. The RAOs received updated briefs on TRICARE for Life (TFL), TRICARE Retired Dental Program, Department of Veterans Affairs, Temporary Disability Retired List program, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Armed Forces Retirement Home and the Survivor Benefit Plan, as well as updates from a Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council (SECNAV RC) representative. The RAOs also worked to contribute to the rewriting of instructions affecting them in the field and received computer training. I want to emphasize that our RAOs are volunteers motivated to attend these conferences by their desire to better serve you and your families.

The last edition of *Shift Colors* highlighted the 2001 SECNAV RC's Report. We will publish SECNAV's responses as soon as they are available; however, we contribute information *to Shift Colors* well before publication, so information may change within that period. Also, please review the listing of upcoming Retiree Seminars in each edition of *Shift Colors* as the dates are subject to change.

By now, those eligible to participate in the TFL program should have received the newest TFL package. Be aware that there may be hurdles to clear in the early going. If so, I'm sure leadership will work out the bugs.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who applied for the vacant positions on the 2002 SECNAV RC. We received more than 80 applications this year. Combined with the applications from last year, the selection committee had a tough job choosing from the high caliber applicants. All who applied for the two vacancies will receive a status letter in the near future. Thank you for volunteering to serve.

In Your Service, Dennis Mills Head, Navy Retiree Operations

Shift Colors

 ${\bf Vice\,Adm.\,Norbert\,R.\,Ryan,Jr.}$

Chief of Naval Personnel

Rear Adm. Gerald L. Hoewing Commander, Navy Personnel Command

Lt. Cmdr. Daren R. Pelkie

Public Affairs Officer

JO1 Daniel C. Pearson

Editor

YN3(SW) Le'Kishona B. Jones

Production Assistant

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
SHIFT COLORS (PERS – 05)
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON, TN 38055-0500
E-mail address:
p05s@persnet.navy.mil
(901) 874-3154

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A message from the Chief of Naval Personnel



Dear Retirees,

It is an honor to hear from so many of you since the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon Sept. 11. Your offers to help, including returning to active duty to battle terrorism, are inspirational, and I sincerely thank you for your example and unconditional support. At present, we are mobilizing thousands of reserves but <u>at this time</u> do not plan on recalling retirees who volunteer. We have kept all volunteer names on file. In the meantime, you can help by sharing our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment, your experience and well-honed leadership skills with those in your community who are actively supporting our nation's mission. As veterans, each of you can be an anchor for your community's confidence, faith and resolve.

Your experiences in the Fleet should tell you that we are prepared to win this difficult war against terrorism. We are focused on our mission and we are ready. Your words and actions that reflect this message are invaluable. You have set the standard for each and every Sailor of today's Navy; you are the example to follow and you should be very proud of the strong force you have helped create.

This tragedy has deeply impacted the families of the 42 Sailors, Navy civilians and contractors who were proudly serving their country in the Pentagon, as well as those shipmates lost in the four aircraft and World Trade Center. As we continue to support the needs of our Navy families who suffered the loss of loved ones, I know that you will serve them also, by extending your hand to those who may need you. If you are interested in helping families in need, www.defenselink.mil contains a lot of organizations that DoD officials recommend individuals contact to make donations.

In days to come, many citizens will look to you for support and reassurance as our nation begins to build momentum in this campaign against terrorism. I know you will continue to serve your nation and Navy by offering your guidance, wisdom and strength to those you touch in your every day lives. In times of crisis like this, our nation is blessed to have as its steadfast bedrocks the wonderful men and women who wear our country's military uniforms and its selfless veterans.

We ask for your continued support and patience with the inconveniences you may experience due to the military facilities and ships that remain at an increased state of alert. Ship and base visits will be altered and you will likely experience longer waits and requests for additional identification for you and your vehicles. I know you understand that this leads to a safer environment for all of us.

Your continued support of our President, the United States military, and in particular, our Sailors and their families is appreciated far more than I can describe. The example you have set for us will guide us as we begin the battle to eradicate terrorism.

Much will be asked of all of us in the future. We will succeed as long as we work together and take care of each other. I sincerely appreciate your efforts on behalf of shipmates and their families. I couldn't be more proud to be on your team. All the best.

Woch Rront

NORB RYAN, JR. Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy

Internet resources treasure trove of information

This listing of government and Department of Defense web sites is by no means complete, but it provides a good starting point for information on a wide variety of

community.

Besides pay and medical benefits, these sites contain information on pending legislative

issues affecting the retired issues, historical information and links to alphabetical categorical lists of Navy web sites.

> We think you will find them both useful and interesting.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service - www.dfas.mil

Delta Dental - www.ddpdelta.org

Department of Defense News - www.defenselink.mil

Department of Veterans Affairs - www.va.gov

Official Navy Web Site - www.navy.mil

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs - www.veterans.house.gov

Legislative Information - http://thomas.loc.gov

Medicare - www.medicare.gov

National Personnel Records Center - www.nara.gov/regional/mpr.html

Naval Historical Center - www.history.navy.mil

Naval Reserve Personnel Center - www.nrpcweb.nola.navy.mil

Navy Exchange System - www.navy-nex.com

Navy Office of Information - www.chinfo.navy.mil

Navy Retired Activities Branch - www.bupers.navy.mil/pers62/RetAct/firstpage.htm

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee - www.senate.gov/~veterans

Shift Colors on-line - www.persnet.navy.mil (click on News Stand on left side of screen)

Social Security Administration - www.ssa.gov

TRICARE - www.tricare.osd.mil

Current DEERS information vital to benefits

It is important to update your Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) data to show any changes of address, family status such as marriage, divorce, birth or adoption. (Each family member's eligibility is independent and must be updated.)

Home addresses are important because DEERS uses them to send out information on health benefits. Also, health benefits could be denied if DEERS is not up to date.

You may update your DEERS address in several ways:

- Visit www.tricare.osd.mil and use the 'browse by topic' (DEERS Address Change).
- Visit a local personnel office that has a Uniformed Services I.D. card facility. Call ahead for hours of operation and for instructions if you are updating a record for someone who is housebound. To locate the nearest ID card facility visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/ (You may search for an ID card facility by city, state, ZIP code or name).
- Call the Defense Manpower Data Center

Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at 1-800-538-9552. The best time to call is between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. PST, Wednesday through Friday to avoid delays.

- Fax address changes to (831) 655-8317.
- Mail the change information to:

DSO ATTN: COA 400 Gigling Road Seaside, CA 93955-6771

Visit a military treatment facility.

Other DEERS information may be updated by sending appropriate documentation (such as marriage or death certificates) to DEERS by mail or fax, or by visiting the nearest military ID card facility.

For additional questions regarding your DEERS record, call DSO at 1-800-538-9552. The hours of operation are 6 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. PST, Monday - Friday (excluding federal holidays).

VA announces CHAMPVA For Life

Improvements to the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) will bring financial relief to older survivors and dependents of some disabled or deceased veterans who face medical expenses not paid by Medicare or other third-party payers.

Called "CHAMPVA for Life," the new benefit is designed for spouses or dependents who are 65 or older. They must be family members of veterans who have a permanent and total service-connected disability, who died of a service-connected condition or who were totally disabled from a service-connected condition at the time of death. They also must have Medicare coverage.

"This improved benefit is part of VA's continuing effort to make sure the families of disabled veterans have health care when the veterans can no longer provide it," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "I'm delighted we can provide prescription outpatient medication coverage, a benefit not offered by Medicare."

Beginning Oct. 1, 2001, CHAMPVA will pay benefits for covered medical services to eligible beneficiaries who are 65 or older and enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B. The "CHAMPVA for Life" benefit is payable after payment by Medicare or other third-party payers. For services not covered by

Medicare or other insurance, such as outpatient prescription medications, CHAMPVA will be the primary payer.

CHAMPVA beneficiaries who reached age 65 as of June 5, 2001, but were not enrolled in Medicare Part B on that date, will be eligible for this expanded benefit even though not enrolled in Medicare Part B. There is no change in CHAMPVA coverage for those beneficiaries 65 and older who do not qualify for Medicare.

Information about the new benefit was recently mailed to all previous CHAMPVA beneficiaries and providers who have filed claims with CHAMPVA.

People over age 65 who have never been eligible for CHAMPVA can request an application by writing to the VA Health Administration Center (HAC), P.O. Box 469028, Denver, CO 80246-9028.

Veterans and family members can also call toll-free, 1-888-289-2411, to obtain the latest recorded information, leave a change of address, or request information to be mailed to them. This phone line is available 24 hours a day. Inquiries may also be emailed to hac.inq@med.va.gov.

Updates about "CHAMPVA for Life" and other benefits information will be posted to the VA's Health Administration Center web site at www.va.gov/hac.

TRICARE information available on web, by phone

The most comprehensive and up-to-date TRICARE information is available on the TRICARE web site at www.tricare.osd.mil//ndaa.

For those beneficiaries whose questions cannot be answered by the TRICARE web site, there are new TRICARE toll-free telephone numbers to TRICARE representatives with answers on TRICARE For Life, the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, and TRICARE Prime Remote for active duty and their family members.

These new telephone numbers will greatly expand TRICARE's ability to provide accurate information.

One of the best features of the new information technology center is the "warm hand-off." When beneficiaries reach a TRICARE Information Center representative, they are not disconnected until they have their questions answered, or they have been connected to another person who can help them. There are no telephone recordings or directories to sort through.

The toll-free telephone numbers for these TRICARE programs are:

Senior Pharmacy Program 1-877-363-6337.

- TRICARE For Life program 1-888-363-5433.
- TRICARE Prime Remote for active duty and their families 1-888-363-2273.

Accessing the TRICARE web site and using the tools available, such as "Frequently Asked Questions" you can get the answers you need when you need them.

Hours of operation for the telephone information center are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 11 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. ET.

Survivors' Checklist

The information below is provided for family members of surviving spouses of military retirees in the event of the death of the surviving spouse. The information is intended as a guide and is not all-inclusive.

- Notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service – Denver (DFAS-DE) if the surviving spouse was receiving an annuity from the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP), the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) or "Forgotten Widows Annuity." Call DFAS-DE at 1-800-435-3396.
- If the survivor was a civil service retiree or receiving an annuity from the federal government, notify the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at 724-794-8690, Option 3 or 1-888-767-6738.
- If the survivor was receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) or other compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), please contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000.
- Notify private sector or retirement custodian if the deceased received funds from an employer-sponsored plan.
- Notify financial institutions where the deceased saved, invested or maintained funds.
- Notify insurance companies.

- Contact your nearest Retired Activities Office (RAO) or Retired Services Office (RSO) for assistance. The RAO phone numbers are routinely published in *Shift Colors*. Call your nearest military installation for the RSO locations.
- If the deceased was receiving Social Security benefits, notify the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213.
- If the deceased participated in the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contact the Federal Retirement Thrift Board at 504-255-6000.
- If the deceased was a member of a military fraternal group, such as the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), The Retired Officers Association (TROA), The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), The American Legion or DAV, please notify that organization.

Realizing that the above list is incomplete we would appreciate any input from retirees or survivors on information that would be pertinent for the family members of deceased survivors. Mail suggestions to:

> Navy Personnel Command Casualty Assistance and Retired Activities Division (PERS-62) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-6200

How to Contact Us

The combining of the Retired Activities Branch and the Casualty Assistance Branch has resulted in a change of e-mail addresses for the Retired Activities Branch. You may also reach us by calling 1-800-255-8950 and using the extension listed below.

Mr. Basil Coleman, Head, Administrative Services (SBP Program Manager) Ext. 4304, p62s@persnet.navy.mil Ms. Rena Koger, Administrative Assistant Ext. 4307, p62s2@persnet.navy.mil Mr. Dennis Mills, Head, Retired Operations Section (Retiree Matters) Ext. 4308, p62r@persnet.navy.mil NCCM Todd Pike, Retired Activities Office (RAO) Program Manager Ext. 2490, p62r2@persnet.navy.mil PNC Injee Yoon, Assistant RAO Program Manager Ext. 4309, p62r3@persnet.navy.mil

What TRICARE Senior Pharmacy users need to know about other health insurance

"What if I have other health insurance? How does my TRICARE coverage work?" These questions continue to be among the most commonly asked about the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program that began April 1, 2001. TRICARE beneficiaries with other health insurance have "double coverage," and basically, TRICARE is second payer. TRICARE pays

after the other health insurance has paid a claim for covered drugs, or when the beneficiary's prescription coverage under that plan is exhausted for the year



year. Another related frequently asked question is "What if I have other health insurance, but it does not include prescription coverage?" Beneficiaries may need to contact one of the two regional claims centers to change their other health insurance information to indicate that they do not have prescription coverage. They should call the toll-free **TRICARE** Pharmacy Help Line 1-877-363-6337, to find out what information and documentation is required, the telephone and fax numbers, and address for their regional claims center. If they have double coverage and must fill a prescription before their information is updated, they

A third question beneficiaries are asking is "Can I use TRICARE's National Mail Order Program (NMOP) if I have prescription coverage under other health insurance?" They may only use the NMOP when their required medication is not covered under their other plan, or if they exceed the dollar limit of coverage under that plan. Otherwise, their other health insurance is still first payer and they may not use the NMOP.

may have to pay for the prescription initially, and

file a claim for reimbursement from TRICARE.

"Double coverage sometimes causes confusion, but it does not prevent our beneficiaries from enjoying the benefits of their TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program," explains Army Col. William Davies, Department of Defense (DoD) pharmacy director.

"Most of our beneficiaries with other health insurance find that they have the best possible

prescription coverage, often ending up with little or no

out-of-pocket costs," he said. "They can file a claim to TRICARE for reimbursement of their out-of-pocket costs after their other health insurance pays on their

prescription claims. It's important that they hang on to their pharmacy receipts showing out-of-pocket expenses, and their explanation of benefits (EOB) statement from their other health insurance. By providing adequate documentation to the TRICARE claims processor, they will be able to maximize their reimbursement." TRICARE will provide reimbursement up to the amount TRICARE would have paid as first payer, or the amount of the beneficiary's out-of-pocket expense, whichever is less.

Examples of other health insurance plans TRICARE beneficiaries may have are those that provide coverage through a current or former employer, an association or private insurer, a Medicare health maintenance organization, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), or a Medigap supplemental insurance with a prescription benefit.

More information about this program is available through the toll-free TRICARE Pharmacy Help Line at 1-877-DOD-MEDS (1-877-363-6337). The Help Line is operational weekdays (Monday through Friday) from 7 a.m.-11 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Eastern Time. Information also is available on the TRICARE web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy.

Were you a WWII Navy or Marine Corps Prisoner of War?

The Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for FY01 directs the Department of the Navy to pay back-pay to persons interned during World War II, who were selected for promotion but not available to accept the promotion. The bill authorizes payment to the former member or a surviving spouse of the deceased former member. If there is no surviving spouse, no claim will be paid.

The period of eligibility for World War II is from Dec. 7, 1941, to Dec. 31, 1946. A surviving spouse is defined as a husband or wife by lawful marriage who outlives the other spouse.

Eligible veterans, retirees or surviving spouses may complete the form on the facing page to provide the necessary information. A special section has been established within our organization to handle these requests.

Please complete the form on page 9 and mail it to:

World War II POW Section (PERS-62W) Navy Personnel Command 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-6200

The process of determining promotion eligibility and the computation of the amount to be paid will require researching each request by hand and sifting through hundreds of documents in the member's personnel and pay records. The bottom line is that this will take time so please be patient. Should you have questions, you may call 1-800-762-8567.

TRICARE for Life mailing

TRICARE for Life (TFL), which results in most members of the military retiree community being eligible for benefits formerly provided only to those under 65, began Oct. 1. By now, eligible beneficiaries should have received an information package that describes the new program.

Eligible beneficiaries who have not received an information package should call the toll-free TFL number, 1-888-363-5433. Those who are hearing or speech impaired should call TTY/TDD at 1-877-535-6778. Information is also available at the TRICARE web site at www.tricare.osd.mil.

How do I stay informed on events that affect me and my family?

Shift Colors makes every effort to provide you with updated important information about entitlements, benefits and programs that affect the retiree community, but it should not be your sole source of information. There are numerous web sites that offer current initiatives by military fraternal groups that act as our advocates to Congress.

If you do not have a computer, it is strongly advised that you join a veterans or retiree organization that will represent you and keep you informed.

Plain talk

We have received comments from some of our retirees to use "plain talk" in our articles.

Where we (the *Shift Colors* editor and the Retired Activities Branch) have control over the information in this newsletter, we will make every attempt to use plain language in conveying our message.

However, barring typos and recognized inaccuracies, contributions from our various sources and agencies are often in technical language which would change meaning through alteration.

Do You Know Any Widows of Retirees?

If you know any widows or widowers of Navy retirees, and you are not sure they are up to date on their entitlements, have them call 1-800-255-8950 ext. 4307. We want to help those who may not be receiving current information.

WWII Prisoner of War Promotion Back Pay Application

Privacy Notice: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579), this notice informs you of the purpose of the requested information and how it will be used. Please read it carefully.

Authority: 5 USC 301, Departmental Regulations; E.O. 9397 (SSN); and Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001. Section 667 (Public Law 106-259).

		ection 667 (Public		,	pay entitlements as authorized
by Public Law 106-259		will be used to de		giointy for p	ouy emittements as authorized
Routine Uses: Used by	y Navy and Marine	Corps offices to det	ermine elig	gibility and th	hen sent to DFAS for paymen
Disclosures: Voluntar	ry. However, failure	e to provide inform	ation may	result in our	inability to approve the clair
*******	********	*******	*****	******	*********
Veteran's Full Name (Last, First, Middle)			Service Number		
Date of Birth	Place of Birth			Place of Entry into Service	
Current Address (Str	eet, Apartment Nu	umber, City, State	, Zip Code	<u></u>	
Branch of Service (Ci	ircle One)	Navy	Marine	Corps	
Telephone Number (v	with Area Code)	Dates of Intern	ment		Rank at Internment
Date of Repatriation		Rank at Discha	rge		Date of Discharge
Veteran's Social Secu	ırity Number				
If veteran is deceased	, the surviving spo	use is also request	ed to prov	ide the follo	owing information:
Date of Death			_ (Include	copy of Dec	ath Certificate)
Full Name of Surviving Spouse (Last, First, Middle)			Spouse's So	ocial Security Number	
	Date of Marriage			conv of Mar	riaga Licansa)
			(Incinue C	opy of Mar	ruge License)

Short splices on Survivor Benefit Plan

Information about your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) election appears on the reverse side of your Retiree Account Statement (RAS). The RAS is distributed annually by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Cleveland (DFAS-CL), and any time there is a change in your pay. It is important that you and your spouse be aware of your SBP election and the financial implications should you predecease your spouse.

If you are an SBP participant (whether premiums are being deducted or are suspended), you have one year to enroll any newly acquired spouse or child.

If you divorce and are required to continue coverage for your former spouse, you or your spouse must provide a copy of your divorce decree and a cover letter specifically requesting continuation in SBP under the former spouse category within one year to DFAS-CL. If you do not provide the divorce decree, your former spouse, or their attorney, may do so and have the coverage "deemed" on their behalf. If you divorce and provide your divorce decree without a cover letter, your SBP coverage may be terminated.

Maintain current beneficiary information with both DFAS-CL and the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

The Social Security Administration requires all of

your DD Form 214s in order to apply for benefits. Do not wait until you are 62 years of age to search for them. Verify that you have all copies now. In fact it is a good idea to have your DD-214 entered into the official record at your local county court, as well as keeping copies in more than one place (your spouse should know their location also).

Ensure your spouse knows which government agency to contact should you predecease them.

- 1. DFAS-CL at 1-800-269-5170
- The nearest Retired Activities Office (RAO) for assistance (Navy, Army, Air Force or Marine Corps)
- 3. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at 1-800-827-1000
- 4. The Social Security Administration (SSA) at 1-800-772-1213

Finally, inform your spouse about your benefits and entitlements. Share information contained in *Shift Colors* and other pertinent information regarding entitlements for them.

Totally disabled retirees may have SBP premiums suspended

If you are a participant in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) with a service-connected disability rated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (for at least 10 consecutive years) as totally disabling (or, if for a lesser period, at least five years from the date of last discharge or release from active duty), you may request to discontinue participation in SBP. To do so, you must provide a written request accompanied by the written consent of the beneficiary or beneficiaries under the plan to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS-CL). The initial date for determining the five or 10 year period is the effective date of the VA rating of total disability. Validation must be obtained from the VA if not available from the member.

Reserve Component SBP participation, basic annuities

On October 30, 2000, former President Clinton signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for FY01. This new law amended the Reserve Component SBP to require spousal consent for a member to elect: (1) to not participate in SBP; or (2) to designate the effective date for commencement of SBP payments (in the event the member dies before reaching age 60) to be the 60th anniversary of the member's birth. Additionally, Congress expressed a sense that there should be legislation enacted during the 106th Congress that increases the minimum basic annuities provided under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) for surviving spouse of members of the uniformed services who are age 62 or older. Widows and widowers, as well as current retired members should actively support this type of legislation as well.

Please send your change of address to the appropriate office:

The *Shift Colors* mailing list is derived from several sources. It is imperative that you send your change of address to the right place to ensure that the mailing list is updated. Choose the appropriate address below for your status when submitting your change of address request.

Retirees Receiving Pay	DFAS-Directorate for Retired Pay P. O. Box 99191 Cleveland, OH 44199-1126 (800) 321-1080/(216) 522-5955 E-mail ccl-retired-pay@dfas.mil	Annuitant Widows and Widowers	DFAS-DE/FRB 6760 East Irvington Place Denver, CO 80279-6000 (800) 435-3396/(303) 676-6552 E-mail dfas-de-frb@dfas.mil
Retired Reservists NOT Receiving Pay	Naval Reserve Personnel Center 4400 Dauphine Street (N321) New Orleans, LA 70149-7800 (800) 535-2699/(504) 678-5895 E-mail address@nrpc.nola.navy.mil	Non- annuitant Widows and Widowers	Navy Personnel Command Shift Colors (PERS-05) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-0500 (901) 874-3154 E-mail p05s@persnet.navy.mil

	Reque Retirees receiving p	
	Name	
Social Security No. (SSN) _		
Name of Deceased Retiree		
SSN	of Deceased Retiree	
	Old Address	
	New Address	
	Signature	

Upcoming Retiree Seminars

Arizona

Phoenix

Oct. 27, 2001 Luke Air Force Base Glendale, AZ Joint with Air Force (602) 353-3033 ra_phx@hotmail.com

California

San Diego (NAVSTA)

Nov. 3, 2001 Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Base Theater, Bldg. 30 (0800-1400) (619) 556-8987 poole.lynell@ns.cnrsw.navy.mil

What's the big deal about attending Military Retiree Seminars?

Military retiree seminars provide updated information on benefits and entitlements from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), TRICARE and the Social Security Administration. Additionally, information about base activities, renewal of Military ID Cards, special MWR offers, legislative updates and other helpful information are presented. To top it off, you have an opportunity to meet and greet other military members and retirees. So, the next time you receive a card or letter from the Retired Activities Office (RAO) advertising upcoming seminar, please consider attending with your spouse.

Connecticut

Groton

Dec. 8, 2001 Dealey Center Theatre Submarine Base (860) 694-3284 trice2@aol.com rao@subasenlon.navy.mil

Florida

Jacksonville

Oct. 27, 2001 Bldg. 30 (VP-30 Hangar) (0900-1500) (904) 542-5783/2766 Ext 126 raojax@nasjax.navy.mil

Pensacola

Oct. 20, 2001 NAS Pensacola, Bldg. 633 (0900-1200) (850) 452-5990/1 Ext 111 nasp-retired-activities@cnet.navy.mil

Hawaii

Pearl Harbor Nov. 3, 2001

Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 46 891 Valkenburgh, Honolulu (0800-1200)

(808) 473-4222 Ext 231 www.pearlharbor.navy.mil/ffsc

Maryland

Bethesda

Oct. 13, 2001 (301) 295-4120/1 rao@bethesda.med.navy.mil

New York

Amityville

Nov. 10, 2001 Ft. Hamilton Station Theater Brooklyn, NY (0800-1200) (631) 842-6620 raoamityville@yahoo.com

jules_verne_steinhauer@yahoo.com

Texas

Fort Worth

Oct. 27, 2001 Ceremonial Hangar NAS JRB Ft. Worth (0800-1300) (817) 782-5442/5287 james@cnrf.navy.mil

Houston

Oct. 13, 2001 (0800-1500) (713) 795-4109/4068 raohou@hotmail.com

San Antonio

March 30, 2002 Fort Sam Houston Blesse Auditorium in the School of Medicine satrao@cnrf.nola.navy.mil

Virginia

Dahlgren

Nov. 7, 2001 NSWC Gymnasium (1000-1600) (540) 653-1839 1-800-500-4947 rao@nswc.navy.mil pla1@worldskyline.com

Washington

Whidbey Island

Oct. 6, 2001 (360) 257-8054 rao@naswi-navy.mil

United Kingdom

RAF West Ruislip

Nov. 17, 2001 (1000-1600) 01895-61-6500 001-44-1895-61-6500 (fm US) 00-44-1895-61-6500 (fm other countries) williams@cnauk.navy.mil

Upcoming Reunions

USS ALEXANDER HAMILTON (SSBN 617)

St. Mary's, GA; Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2001 Contact Clark LaPointe 309 Ashley Drive Summerville, SC 29485-5705 (843) 873-4664

USS ALLEN M. SUMNER (DD 692)

Mobile, AL; June 13-16, 2002 Contact Joe Gall 56 Amsterdam Avenue Tonawanda, NY 14150 (716) 692-2697 ams692@aol.com

USS AMPHION (AR 13)

San Antonio, TX; May 16-19, 2002 Contact Henry Miller 1214 Langstonshire Lane Morrisville, NC 27560 (919) 677-9554 hmillers@nc.rr.com

USS ARCADIA (AD 23)

San Antonio, TX; May 16-19, 2002 Contact Andrew Malone 38 Croyden Lane Hicksville, NY 11801 (516) 681-0725 arcd23@aol.com

USS BIGELOW (DD 942)

Jacksonville, Fl; April 10-14, 2002 Contact Frank or Brenda Calandrillo 707 Thoreau Court Mahwah, NJ 07430 (201) 818-9668 frankmcal@aol.com

USS BLAKELY (FF 1072)

Charleston, SC; July 18-21, 2002 Contact Merle Houk PO Box 52 Volant, PA 16156 (724) 533-2297 mhouk20@hotmail.com

USS BOSTON (SSN 703)

New London, CT; Jan. 18-20, 2002 Contact Arthur Hebert PO Box 816 Amherst, NH 03031-0816 (860) 688-2058 www.ussboston.org

USS BUCK (DD 761) ASSOCIATION

Colorado Springs, CO; May 23-26, 2002 Contact John Connolly 7 Tenerife Way Hot Springs, AR 71909 (501) 922-3969 joncon@ipa.net

USS BUTLER (DD 636/DMS 29)

Norfolk, VA; Oct. 3-7, 2001 Contact Joseph Walsh 3932 Indian River Road Virginia Beach, VA 23456 (757) 471-5499

USS CADMUS (AR 14)

San Antonio, TX; May 16-19, 2002 Contact Robert Baschmann 11231 Bullis Road Marilla, NY 14102 (716) 655-5415 dinamlrs@aol.com

USS CAMBRIA (APA 36)

Charleston, SC; April 2002 Contact David Stoll 508 West Pearl Street Wapakoneta, OH 45895 (419) 738-3786 destoll@bright.net

USS CAPERTON (DD 650)

Phoenix, AZ; Nov. 8-10, 2001 Contact Robert Smithson 3812 East Kachina Drive Phoenix, AZ 85044 (480) 496-0705

USS CEBU (ARG 6)

Myrtle Beach, SC; Oct. 28-31, 2001 Contact Harold Bond 75 Calabash Drive Carolina Shores, NC 28467 (910) 579-3777

USS CHARLES H. ROAN (DD 853)

Norfolk, VA; Apr. 4-7, 2002 Contact Robert Sipka 412 Betsy Ross Road Virginia Beach, VA 23462 (757) 490-0630 resipka@cs.com

USS CHINCOTEAGUE (AVP 24)

Sacramento, CA; May 2-4, 2002
Contact Cecil Hornbeck
1608 Messina Drive
Yuba City, CA 95993
(530) 671-2929
clhueman@teamsters.workfam.com
Or Evelyn Butcher
4049 Gelding Drive
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314
(928) 775-4085
cebutcher@prodigy.net

USS COLHOUN (DD 801)

Great Lakes, IL; April 3-6, 2002 Contact Ernest Amaral 19790 Mella Drive Volcano, CA 95689-9784 (209) 296-7542

USS CONYNGHAM (DD 371/DDG 17)

Tampa, FL; May 1-5, 2002 Contact Len Gordon PO Box 106 Milltown, NJ 08850-0106 (732) 432-0588 ddgusboat@aol.com

USS DONNER (LSD 20)

Branson, MO; May 20-23, 2002 Contact Bill Gibson PO Box 226 Viburnum, MO 65566 (573) 244-5698 gibson@misn.com Or Tom Nelson 740 Home Avenue Edwardsville, IL 62025 (618) 656-0131 nellie0131@yahoo.com

USS EARLE B. HALL (APD 107)

Baltimore, MD; May 2-5, 2002 Contact Robert Grimm 4740 West Grange Greenfield, WI 53220-5039 (414) 421-8436 rgrimm@milwpc.com

USS FRONTIER (AD 25)

Tucson, AZ; Nov. 8-11, 2001 Contact Joseph Olean 12 Doreen Dr Westerly, RI 02891 (401) 596-0143 Fax (401) 348-3060

USS GEORGE E. BADGER (DD 196/AVD 3/APD 33), CLEMSON (DD 186/AVD 4/APD 31)

Virginia Beach, VA; May 2-4, 2002 Contact Johnnie Muse 803 Custis Avenue Chesapeake, VA 23323 (757) 487-7306

USS GEORGETOWN (AGTR 2)

Key West, FL; April 11-14, 2002 Contact Jack Merrill J-150 West Turner Road Lodi, CA 95242 (209) 334-3952 jmerrill@ussgeorgetown.com

USS HARRY E. HUBBARD (DD 748)

Nashville, TN; May 15-19, 2002 Contact Richard Oliver 3327 Overlook Drive NE St. Petersburg, FL 33703-5533 (727) 527-9448 tewaka@cs.com

USS HARWOOD (DD/DDE 861)

Jacksonville Beach, FL; May 8-12, 2002 Contact Anthony Jandron 67 Sachem Road N. Kingstown, RI 02852-2109 (401) 884-2417 tony636@juno.com

USS HAYNSWORTH (DD 700)

Portsmouth, NH; Nov. 1-4, 2001 Contact Herb Potter 26 Karen Road Middleton, NH 03887 (603) 755-3617 hpotter@unix.worldpath.net

USS HOLT (DE 706)

Jacksonville, FL; Apr. 24-27, 2002 Contact Bill Morgan 3356 Northaven Road Dallas, TX 75229-2544 (214) 352-6718 wjm-lgm@msn.com

USS JOHN C. CALHOUN ASSOCIATION

Hampton, VA; Jul. 11-14, 2002 Contact Ralph White HC2 Box 250 King & Queen C. H., VA 23085 (804) 785-9001 mspa@oasisonline.com

USS KENNETH D. BAILEY (DD/DDR 713)

Mobile, AL; April 2002 Contact Robert Levine 439 Weld Street West Roxbury, MA 02132-1109 (617) 327-3286 rh1713@aol.com

USS KEPPLER (DD/DDE 765)

Milwaukee, WI; May 30-June 2, 2002 Contact Willard Darrell 23 Kenneth Lane North Babylon, NY 11703 (631) 586-4565 dinamlrs@aol.com

USS MACOMB (DD 458/DMS 23)

Mobile, AL; May 1-5, 2002 Contact James Dimond 4940 Baywood Lane Millington, TN 38053-3963 (901) 873-2865 emcsusnret@aol.com

USS MARIAS (AO 57)

San Antonio, TX; May 16-19, 2002 Contact Ray Bower 3471 Blackjack Court Lake Wales, FL 33853 (863) 676-4047 dinamlrs@aol.com

USS NANTAHALA (AO 60)

San Antonio, TX; May 16-19, 2002 Contact Jack Gibbs 40695 Newport Drive Plymouth, MI 48170-4742 (734) 455-9306 jegibbs@mediaone.net

USS NASHVILLE (CL 43)

Albuquerque, NM; May 2-5, 2002 Contact Don Hill 4020 Inca NE Albuquerque, NM 87111 (505) 299-4133

USS NAVASOTA (AO 106)

Las Vegas, NV; March 10-13, 2002 Contact William Slaughter 3860 Walker View Road Wellington, NV 89444 (775) 266-3329 jojola7@aol.com

USS NORTHAMPTON (CA 26/CLC 1/CC 1)

San Jose, CA; Oct. 25-29, 2001 Contact Paul White 28 Jerz Lane Northford, CT 06472-1513 (203) 484-9875

USS PAWCATUCK (AO 108)

Phoenix, AZ; June 19-23, 2002 Contact David Willis 15807 W. Cimarron Drive Surprise, AZ 85374-6153 (623) 214-9835 Pager (602) 408-6038 dwshs53@aol.com

USS PURDY (DD 734)

Norfolk, VA; May 2-5, 2002 Contact Larry DiPasquale 3744 Surrey Drive Allentown, PA 18103-5329 (610) 433-4787 chiefdi@juno.com

USS REGULUS (AF 57)

Branson, MO; May 16-19, 2002 Contact David Cunningham 916 Timberlake Drive Virginia Beach, VA 23464-3232 (757) 467-6682 dcunnin884@aol.com

USS RICH (DD/DDE 820)

Beaufort, SC; April 17-21, 2002 Contact Dave Dore 209 Dataw Drive Dataw Island, SC 29920 (843) 838-1191 scdores@islc.net www.ussrich.org

USS ROANOKE (CL 145)

Baltimore, MD; May 2-5, 2002 Contact Forrest Doucette 4701 W. Placita de Suerte Tucson, AZ 85745 (520) 743-7383 fhdoucette@aol.com

USS RUTLAND (APA 192)

Nashville, TN; May 15-19, 2002 Contact Bud Duncan 2731 W. 18 Port Angeles, WA 98363 (360) 457-3906 francesduncan@prodigy.net

USS SCHOFIELD (DEG/FFG 3)

St. Louis, MO; May 2002 Contact Richard Cohagan 801 E. Rittenhouse Street, Lot 85 Houston, TX 77076-1657 (713) 692-6649 rick_cohagan@juno.com

USS SMALLEY (DD 565)

San Diego, CA; May 15-19, 2002 Contact George Bauersfeld 1874 Crompond Road Building 3 Apartment C6 Peekskill, NY 10566 (914) 736-6377 dd565@prodigy.net

USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD 32)

Pensacola Beach, FL; Oct. 18-21, 2001 Contact Chuck Siedschlag 218 E. Randall #117 Appleton, WI 54911-3680 (920) 731-3330 lsd32@webtv.net

USS TARAWA (CV/CVA/CVS 40/LHA 1)

St. Louis, MO; April 18-21, 2002 Contact Frank Grosey 14430 Amethyst Road Victorville, CA 92392 (760) 241-7472 bt2fpg@msn.com

USS TRUXTUN (DLG/DLGN 35/CL/CLN 35)

Philadelphia, PA; May 23-26, 2002 Contact Charles Martin 1925 Sussex Avenue Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-3721 (856) 795-0720 or David Holland djhollnd@pacbell.net dave@daveshelp.com

USS VICKSBURG (CL 86)

Philadelphia, PA; May 16-19, 2002 Contact George Shaffer 32 Valley Road Colonia, NJ 07067 (732) 382-3869 dinamlrs@aol.com

USS WILLIAM M. WOOD (DD/DDR 715) ASSOCIATION

Virginia Beach, VA; May 2-4, 2002 Contact Chuck Traub 784 Glasgow Court Virginia Beach, VA 23452 (757) 340-9056 ctraub3@cs.com

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NAVY HOSPITAL CORPSMAN

Pensacola, FL; Nov. 7-12, 2001 Contact Rev. Thomas Fournier Sr. 6401 Aspen Avenue Milton, FL 32570 (850) 623-4849 4niertsr@bellsouth.net

USS GENERALS MITCHELL (AP 114), RANDALL (AP 115), GORDON (AP 117), RICHARDSON

AP TRANSPORT GROUP

(AP 118), WEIGEL (AP 119),

ADMIRALS BENSON (AP 120), CAPPS (AP 121), EBERLE (AP 123), HUGHES (AP 124), MAYO (AP 125), HODGES (AP 144), BRECKINRIDGE (AP 176) Dallas, TX; June 6-9, 2002 Contact Chuck Ulrich 35 Oak Lane New Hyde Park, NY 11040

FLYING MIDSHIPMEN ASSOCIATION

(516) 747-7426

Virginia Beach, VA; May 19-23, 2002 Contact Herb Sargent 2513 Inlynnview Road Virginia Beach, VA 23454 (757) 481-6264 hasfma@aol.com

HS 2 GOLDEN FALCONS

San Diego, CA; March 2002 Contact LCDR Bill Halverson Commanding Officer HS-2 Unit 25171 FPO, AP 96601-5702 (619) 545-0840 halverson.william.k@hs2.nansi.navy.mil www.hs2.navy.mil

MCB133 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Hampton, VA; Feb. 1-3, 2002 Contact Dennis Ruocco 449 Cedarview Drive Bolivia, NC 28422 (910) 842-1341 wdrdennis@aol.com

NAVAL RESERVE RECRUITING ASSOCIATION

Columbia, MD; June 6-9, 2002 Contact Jay Knight 62 Narrow Lane Court Pensacola, FL 32506-7500 (850) 455-8831 nrramcpo@msn.com

NMCB 22

Corpus Christi, TX; March 8-10, 2002 Contact Jerry (Stores) Alvarez 4922 Wexford Drive Corpus Christi, TX 78411 (361) 992-9394

NMCB 40

Atlantic City, NJ; April 11-14, 2002 Contact Ed Holston P.O. Box 112 Franklinville, NJ 08322 (856) 875-1300 nmseabee40@aol.com

U. S. NAVY ARMED GUARD SOUTHWEST REGION

Laughlin, NV; Oct. 15-17, 2001 Contact Richard Hudnall 11088 Charnwood Court Sun City, AZ 85351-1519 (623) 977-3596 bjandrc@aol.com

USNTC BAINBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Brookfield, WI; Oct. 3-7, 2001 Contact Arline Caliger P.O. Box 611 Mt. Airy, MD 21771-0611 kali8824z@aol.com

VAH 1/RVAH 1

Pensacola, FL; Oct. 25-28, 2001 Contact James Mathews 8118 Oregon St. Jacksonville, FL 32220 (904) 783-6943 jimhmath@bellsouth.net

VC 4/VF 4

Pensacola, FL; May 2-5, 2002 Contact Bob Good 12730 Soule Street Poway, CA 92064 (858) 748-1947 nightcapper@home.com

VF/VA/VFA 113 STINGERS

Virginia Beach, VA; April 24-29, 2002 Contact Stinger Reunion Committee 2801 N. Brandywine Street Arlington, VA 22207 (703) 532-0559 crcooper@starpower.net

VP 8 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Reno, NV; April 28-May 3, 2002 Contact John O'Brien 6702 Willow Creek Road Bowie, MD 20720-3326 (301) 464-1276 (evenings) jpobrien30@aol.com

VR 21

Pensacola, FL; May 16-18, 2002 Contact Wayne Dennis 6433 Winston Brown Road Milton, FL 32570-6443 (850) 626-0818 peggy375@cs.com

VW 1 ASSOCIATION

Pensacola, FL; April 30-May 3, 2002 Contact Ed or Sally Metzger 710 Edgewater Drive Inverness, FL 34453 (352) 726-4943 saled@shadrach.net

1ST MEDICAL BATTALION GROUP

San Antonio, TX; May 2-5, 2002 Contact Darrell S. Jones, Jr. 7121A Portugal Drive El Paso, TX 79912 (915) 584-1753 darjon9@aol.com

Mail all reunion information for publication to:

Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs Office (PERS-05) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-0500

or e-mail to: p05s@persnet.navy.mil

Please send reunion information no less than five months in advance. Include command name, reunion location, dates (including year), point of contact and point of contact's mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address, if available.

This listing is provided as a convenience to our readers and is not meant to imply endorsement.

Ready Reference Telephone Numbers

Air Force Retired Affairs	(800) 531-7502
Arlington National Cemetery	(703) 695-3250/3255
Army Retired Affairs	(800) 336-4909
Awards Information (Washington, D.C.)	(202) 685-1770
Coast Guard Retired Affairs	(800) 772-8724
DEERS Verification	(800) 538-9552
Alaska/Hawaii	(800) 527-5602
California Only	(800) 334-4162
Defense Finance and Accounting - Cleveland	
Active Duty	(800) 346-3374
Retired Pay Customer Service	(800) 321-1080
Defense Finance and Accounting - Denver	
SBP Annuity Section	(800) 435-3396
Dept. of Justice Radiation Compensation Program	(800) 729-7327
I.D. Cards, Benefits and Eligibility	(800) 443-9297
	(901) 874-3360
Internal Revenue Service	(800) 829-1040
Marine Corps Retired Affairs	(800) 336-4649
National Personnel Records Center	(314) 538-4141
Naval Reserve Personnel Center (Records)	(800) 535-2699
Navy Lodge Reservation Service	(800) 628-9466
Navy Retired Activities Office	(800) 255-8950
Navy Uniform Shop	(800) 368-4088
Reserve Component SBP Section (Code 416)	(800) 535-2699
Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)	(800) 419-1473
Shift Colors	(901) 874-3154
Social Security Administration (SSA)	(800) 772-1213
Ships Historian (Washington, D.C.)	(202) 433-3643
TRI-CARE Headquarters	(303) 676-3526
TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program	(877) 363-6337
U.S. Naval Home	(800) 332-3527
U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home	(800) 422-9988
VA National Service Life Insurance (NSL)	(800) 669-8477
VA Regional Office	(800) 827-1000
VA Service Department Burial Benefits	(800) 697-6947
Veteran's Group Life Insurance (VGLI)	(800) 419-1473
Navy Worldwide Locator	(901) 874-3388

Service Records

Retirees desiring a copy of their discharge certificate (DD214), personnel records or medical/dental records should write to:

National Personnel Records Ctr. 9700 Page Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

All requests must be written, dated and signed, and should include full name, rate/rank, Social Security Number, dates of service and date of birth. Requests for records are processed in four to six months. You may want to visit their web site at www.nara.gov/regional/mpr.html prior to making any requests.

Annuitant Pay

Questions regarding Annuitant Pay should be directed to Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Denver at (800) 435-3396 or e-mail dfas-de-frb@dfas.mil.

Retiree Pay

Questions about retiree pay should be directed to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Cleveland at (800) 321-1080, (216) 522-5955 or e-mail at ccl-retired-pay@dfas.mil.

ID Card Eligibility

For ID Card and DEERS information, contact the Navy Personnel Command Benefits Branch at (901) 874-3362, Fax (901) 874-2766 or e-mail at p312d3@persnet.navy.mil.

Retiree Dental Program

For information and eligibility guidelines, call the customer service number at (888) 336-3260. You may also visit their web site at www.ddpdelta.org or write:

DDP*DELTA
P.O. Box 537008
Sacramento, CA 95853-7008

Reporting a Retiree's Death

To report the death of a Navy retiree, contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Casualty Assistance Branch at (800) 269-5170 or (216) 522-6680/81. (If a Retired Activities Office is nearby, they can provide valuable assistance.)

For Other Retiree Personnel

Matters Contact:

Navy Personnel Command Retired Activities Branch (PERS - 62) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-6220

Tel: (800) 255-8950 or (901) 874-4307

E-mail p62s2@persnet.navy.mil. (Please include your phone number with all correspondence.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND SHIFT COLORS (PERS - 05) 5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE MILLINGTON TN 38055-0500

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